

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration is requested.

Claims 1-14 have been canceled, without prejudice. Claims 15-39 have been added and are pending. Support for the amended claims may be found throughout the specification. No new matter has been added. The Examiner specifically requested to see in this regard, for example, Examples 15-17 of the specification wherein prophylactic effectiveness has been demonstrated.

The applicants elect, with traverse, the subject matter of the Examiner's Group I for further prosecution in the above. The amended claims are believed to be directed to the elected subject matter.

Consideration and withdrawal of the restriction requirement are requested however, at least insofar as the Examiner has required restriction between the subject matter of the Examiner's Groups I and II, as the subject matter is defined by the Patent Office by one class (class 24) and one subclass (subclass 228.1) within that class as acknowledged by the Examiner on page 2 of the Office Action dated January 23, 2003 (Paper No. 11).

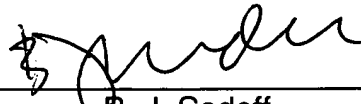
Grant of the attached Petition Under 137(b), entry of the present Amendment, consideration of the attached Information Disclosure Statement and return of an initialed copy of the PTO-1449 Form attached, and an early and favorable action on the merits are requested.

The Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned if anything further is required in this regard.

MAERTENS et al.
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Respectfully submitted,

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